



Pat Quinn, Governor
Rocco J. Claps, Director

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CONTACT:
Anjali Julka 312-814-0093 (w)

Illinois Department of Human Rights Director Visits Illinois State University to Highlight State Law that Protects Students from Sexual Harassment

NORMAL—November 16, 2009. The Illinois Department of Human Rights Director Rocco Claps visited Illinois State University (ISU) to highlight a state law that protects students from sexual harassment. Governor Pat Quinn signed House Bill 2573 into Public Act 96-574 on August 18, 2009.

“Students have the right to learn in an environment that is free of sexual harassment,” said Director Claps. “Our goal is to ensure students are aware that sexual harassment is never okay and there is a law that protects them. I thank ISU for allowing us the opportunity and assisting us in our outreach efforts.”

Director Claps discussed a new measure that requires universities and any institution of higher learning to display posters explaining laws and policies that protect against sexual harassment in prominent and accessible areas for all students. The notice explains what sexual harassment is and what students can do about it. The Director was joined by Shane McCreery, Director of ISU’s Office of Equal Opportunity, Ethics and Access.

“Illinois State University is committed to providing a working and learning environment free of sexual harassment. To this end, the Office of Equal Opportunity, Ethics and Access is responsible for ensuring all allegations of sexual harassment are promptly investigated and any students, faculty, or staff found to be in violation of the University Harassment and Discrimination Policy are held accountable,” said M. Shane McCreery, J.D., Director and Ethics Officer, Office of Equal Opportunity, Ethics & Access.

The amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act calls for colleges, universities and institutions of higher learning to display posters in common areas including, but not limited to, residence halls, administration buildings, student unions, cafeterias, and libraries. College campuses may also satisfy the posting requirement by providing each student an electronic copy of the sexual harassment laws and policies at the time that registration materials are emailed. All institutions affected by this law must be in compliance on or prior to November 17, 2009.

For questions about protections against sexual harassment in higher education and to see all required postings, visit the Department’s website at www.state.il.us/dhr or call 217-785-5100.

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